

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 445

Introduced by Adams, 24.

WHEREAS, the NEBRASKALand Foundation on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at the annual Statehood Day Dinner held in the Nebraska State Capitol, will present the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award to three honorees; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to Eric Brown, a Lexington native, who is well-known in Nebraska and especially in the agricultural community. Eric is the retired general manager of several radio stations including KRVN, known by many as the "Rural Voice of Nebraska." Broadcasting has been Eric's calling in life, starting with part-time announcing, pursuing advanced degrees, and finally becoming an honored leader in broadcast journalism. Eric is known for his leadership in many business, civic, and professional organizations including those associated with the University of Nebraska. Eric recognizes the tremendous importance of agriculture in Nebraska, and Nebraska agriculture has recognized Eric for his service to farm families and agribusiness throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to Bruce Lauritzen, of Omaha, a leader in banking and business in Nebraska, and the fifth generation in his family to be involved in the management of First National Bank of Omaha where Bruce is chairman of its parent companies. First National was founded in 1857, prior to Nebraska statehood, and is now the largest private banking organization in the United States.

Bruce led First National's impressive development in downtown Omaha with the construction of First National Tower, now Nebraska's tallest building, and the creation of two sculpture parks depicting the courage of pioneers and the spirit of the Nebraska wilderness. Bruce has served on numerous civic boards and contributed to community and statewide philanthropy, including the beautiful Lauritzen Gardens, a botanical garden located in South Omaha; and

WHEREAS, a Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award will be presented to Joel Sartore, of Lincoln, who brings great recognition to Nebraska through his work in photography. Since 1992, Joel has contributed more than thirty-five stories as a photographer for National Geographic magazine. Joel has also contributed to other magazines including Audubon, Geo, Life, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, and Time. Joel is best known for his photographs of wildlife and, according to National Geographic, has battled to conserve natural spaces and the habitats they support. Joel is also a speaker, author, and teacher with a degree in journalism from the University of Nebraska. Joel has been on the other side of the lens as the subject of a PBS documentary entitled "At Close Range," and as a participant on national broadcasts including as a regular contributor on the CBS Sunday Morning Show with Charles Osgood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates the recipients of the Distinguished NEBRASKAlander Award and extends its appreciation for their service to the State of Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be given to all honorees.